

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-05 OPR-02 /057 W
-----002191 052225Z /63
P 051659Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4211

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP
SUBJ: PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL

REF: PARAMARIBO 429

1. NOTHING FURTHER HAVING TRANSPIRED BETWEEN MINISTRY OF GENERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EMBASSY SINCE REFTEL ON THIS MATTER, AMBASSADOR WAS ASKED TO CALL MORNING OF APRIL 5 ON DIRECTOR HEINEMANN OF THE MINISTRY.

2. HEINEMANN STATED THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHELTON HAD SPOKEN TO AMBASSADOR KARAMAT ABOUT THIS INCIDENT AND THAT AMBASSADOR KARAMAT HAD, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, REPLIED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN ON APRIL 4. IN EFFECT, GOS REPLY HAD BEEN THAT POLICE INVESTIGATION HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND SHOWED NO EVIDENCE THAT A STRANGLING ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE ON DIPLOMAT'S WIFE CONCERNED AND THAT THERE WAS NO BASIS FOR ACTION AGAINST THE MOTOR SCOOTER DRIVER INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT; THE POLICE WONDERED WHETHER THE WIFE HAD NOT EXAGGERATED OR MISUNDERSTOOD THE MATTER DUE TO BEING UPSET; AND THE MINISTRY OF GENERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOUND THE LANGUAGE OF THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF MARCH 18 "DISPROPORTIONATE" TO THE EVENTS THAT HAD OCCURRED.

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3. AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER THE POLICE HAD INTERVIEWED WITNESSES TO THE EVENT; HEINEMANN REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW, THAT THAT WAS A MATTER FOR THE POLICE, AND HE ACCEPTED THE POLICE REPORT AT FACE VALUE. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT IN ANY CASE NEITHER THE WIFE CONCERNED NOR ANY OTHER EMBASSY PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVENT HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE POLICE; IF THE INVESTIGATION WAS BASED

SOLELY ON THE ALLEGATIONS OF THE MOTOR SCOOTER DRIVER, IT COULD HARDLY BE SAID TO BE COMPLETE; THE EMBASSADOR HAD EVERY REASON TO ACCEPT THE WIFE'S STATEMENTS REGARDING THE EVENT, AND NO REASON WHATSOEVER FOR IMAGINING THAT SHE COULD HAVE BEEN IN ERROR. MOREOVER, AMBASSADOR SHOWED HEINEMANN A COPY OF A STATEMENT MADE BY THE EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO SPOKE WITH THE MOTOR SCOOTER DRIVER IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EVENT, STATING IN PART THAT THE MOTOR SCOOTER DRIVER SAID THAT HE WOULD "TAKE HER APART" AND "NO SHRINK FROM USING A KNIFE" IF CHARGES WERE BROUGHT AGAINST HIM. HEINEMANN WAS SOMEWHAT TAKEN BACK BY THIS MEMORANDUM BUT SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF HOW TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION WAS FOR THE POLICE TO DECIDE, HE HAD EVERY CONFIDENCE IN THE POLICE, AND HE WOULD NOT TRY TO TELL THEM HOW TO DO THEIR WORK.

4. AMBASSADOR ASKED IN WHAT WAY THE EMBASSY NOT HAD BEEN DISPROPORTIONATE. HEINEMANN REPLIED THAT THE ACCIDENT, HOWEVER DEPLORABLE, WAS A PRIVATE MATTER WHICH HAPPENED TO INVOLVE A MEMBER OF A DIPLOMAT'S FAMILY, AND NOT A MATTER AFFECTING THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SURINAM AND THE U.S. FOR THE EMBASSY TO SAY THAT IT "PROTESTS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS" THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SURINAM POLICE WAS NOT WARRANTED. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE EMBASSY NOTE DID NOT PROTEST THE BEHAVIOR OF THE POLICE, BUT THE ATTACK ON A PERSON ENTITLED TO DIPLOMATIC PROTECTION. HEINEMANN REITERATED THAT THE LANGUAGE OF THE NOTE WAS DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE EVENTS THAT OCCURRED.
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AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER HEINEMANN WOULD HAVE FOUND THE LANGUAGE DISPROPORTIONATE IF THE POLICE INVESTIGATION HAD IN FACT CONFIRMED AN ATTACK ON THE WIFE CONCERNED; HEINEMANN REFUSED TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

5. HEINEMANN SAID THAT SHELTON HAD TOLD KARAMAT THAT TREATMENT OF DIPLOMATS IN GENERAL BY POLICE IN SURINAM WAS NOT IN ORDER, AND ASKED WHAT AMBASSADOR HAD MEANT BY REPORTING THAT. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE HAD REPORTED, AS WAS TRUE, THAT TREATMENT OF DIPLOMATS BY POLICE HAD BEEN A FREQUENT TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AMONG CHIEFS OF MISSION AND THAT DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS (DUTCH AMBASSADOR) HAD TAKEN THIS UP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER (PRIME MINISTER) ARRON. HEINEMANN INDICATED IGNORANCE OF ANY SUCH THING AND DIRECTED HIS SECRETARY TO GET THE RECORDS OF THE MINISTER'S CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. AMBASSADOR ALSO CALLED HEINEMANN'S ATTENTION TO A CASE OF POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST THE AMBASSADOR HIMSELF, WITH WHICH HEINEMANN DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ACQUAINTED.

6. CONVERSATION TOOK A FULL HOUR AND ENDED WITH HEINEMANN SAYING AGAIN THAT INVESTIGATION WAS A POLICE JOB AND HE COULD

NOT TRY TO TELL THE POLICE HOW TO DO THEIR WORK; THAT THE EMBASSY'S
NOTE HAD BEEN DISPROPORTIONATE; THAT THE MATTER WAS A PRIVATE
ONE AND NOT ONE THAT SHOULD BE RAISED TO THE LEVEL OF A
DIPLOMATIC PROTEST. AMBASSADOR REITERATED THAT HE HAD FULL
CONFIDENCE IN THE ACCURACY OF THE WIFE'(79/C
KBENTS AND COULD
SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT HER DIPLOMATIC STATUS HAD IN ANY
WAY BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE POLICE. TONE OF CONVERSATION
WAS STILL BUT NOT ACRIMONIOUS.

7. IT WAS LEFT UNCLEAR WHETHER MINISTRY WOULD REPLY IN
WRITING TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE, OR THERTHER AMBASSADOR
KARAMAT'S CONVERSATION IN THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN INTENDED
AS THAT REPLY. WHAT DOES SEEM CLEAR, HOWEVER, IS THAT
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THE GOS DOES NOT INTEND TO ADMIT IN ANY WAY ANY SHORTCOMINGS
IN THE TREATMENT OF DIPLOMATS BY THE POLICE, NOR DOES IT
INTEND TO PURSUE FURTHER THE MATTER OF THE ATTACK ON THE EMBASSY
OFFICER'S WIFE. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY USEFUL
PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY PRESSING FOR FURTHER ACTION, BUT
THINKS IT QUITE LIKELY THAT THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT
IN THIS MATTER AND THE GENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE CASE
(INCLUDING A CALL BY THE AMBASSADOR ON THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE
AND POLICE IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY REACTION FROM THE MINISTRY
OF GENERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS) WILL RESULT IN MORE HIGH
LEVEL ATTENTION IN THE GOS TO THE MATTER OF POLICE TREATMENT
OF DIPLOMATS, WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY BE A POSITIVE FACTOR.

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8. FOR THE RECORD, THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS INFORMED ALL CHIEFS OF MISSION BY LETTER DATED JANUARY 14, 1978, THAT HE HAD MET WITH THE (NEWLY-REAPPOINTED) FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT "WITH REGARD TO THE POLICE, THE MINISTER ADMITTED THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ISSUED, OBVIOUSLY HAVE NOT YET SUFFICIENTLY PENETRATED IN ALL RANKS, IN PARTICULAR THE LOWER ONES. THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO WORK ON THIS. MR. ARRON, WHO REFERRED TO A COMPLAINT (OUR NOTE: FROM THE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR) THAT HAD COME TO HIS ATTENTION ONE OF THESE DAYS' PROMOTED THAT HE WOULD TAKE MEASURES WITH REGARD TO THE PROPOSED GUIDANCE OF THE POLICE FORCE." WHEN THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFED THE DEAN ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH HEINEMANN REPORTED THEREIN, THE DEAN REMARKED THAT HE HAD ONLY YESTERDAY SENT HEINEMANN A COMPLETE SET OF THE RECORDS OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH ARRON BECAUSE HEINEMANN INDICATED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT.
ZURHELLEN

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